

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 15 and 16 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 14 and 15. As such, amended claim 1 represents claim 15 rewritten in independent form including the limitations of all intervening claims. Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 14 and 15 have been canceled.

In light of this amendment, claim 1 and claims 3, 5-7, 10-13 and 16, which depend therefrom, are in form for allowance.

Claims 17-36 have been canceled.

In the Office Action, the reason for allowing claim 15 was in part based on the fact that the prior art of record failed to fairly teach or explicitly suggest an attribute list having a hierarchy related to a hierarchy of clauses in an input text.

The limitations to an attribute list having a hierarchy related to a hierarchy of clauses in an input text are found in former claims 8 and 15. In light of this, Applicants have added new independent claim 37, which represents claim 15 rewritten in independent form with the limitations of claims 1 and 8 but without the limitations of intervening claims 2, 4, 9 and 14. Thus, new independent claim 37 includes the patentable feature of claims 8 and 15 without the limitations of claims 2, 4, 9, and 14, which do not appear to have been important in determining the patentability of claim 15. As such, claim 37 is also in form for allowance.

Applicants have also added claims 38-43, which represent claims 2-7 but depend from claim 37 instead of claim 1, and claims 44-49, which represent claims 9-14 but depend from claim 37 instead of claim 1. Since claim 37 is patentable, these claims are also patentable.

If the Examiner does not agree that new claims 37-49 are in form for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's representative Theodore Magee so that the case can be further amended to place it in condition for allowance.

In light of the above remarks, claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-13, 16, and 37-49 are patentable over the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By:



Theodore M. Magee, Reg. No. 39,758  
Suite 1400 - International Centre  
900 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319  
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

tmm